

OFFICAL COPY

I. CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Scituate Land Trust was held on Tuesday, January 9, 2007, and was called to order at 6:40 P.M. It was held in the School Department Meeting Room, Scituate Town Hall, 195 Danielson Pike, N. Scituate, Rhode Island.

II. ATTENDANCE:

Present: Paul Dolan, Thomas Angell, Ruth Strach and Walter Powell

Absent: David Ellingwood

Guests: Christopher Modisette, Jon Vernava, Cynthia Gianfrancesco and Cheryl Dexter

III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Ms. Strach moved for Mr. Dolan to continue as chair, seconded by Mr. Angell. Ms. Strach nominated Mr. Angell to continue as vice-chair, seconded by Mr. Powell. Nominations were closed. The secretary cast one ballot for the slate. All were in favor. Motion carried.

IV. DISCUSSION ON LAND ACQUISITION:

There was some discussion in regard to the 2007/2008 budget. Most of the funds have been allocated for property appraisals.

There is no new information on the Tirrell property other than them acquiring a new attorney. Chair Dolan suggested that all parties meet to settle any conflicting information. A town council agenda item for the Tirrell's property on land acquisition in the amount of \$300,000.00 needs to be added. Mr. Dolan will remind town council President Budway of this.

The Harris property on Harmony Road was previously sold to the Audubon Society. They would like permission from the Land Trust to separate the portion of the property that has homes to be sold. The rest of the land would remain in its preserved state.

Mr. Modisette from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (N.R.C.S.) requested the Land Trust's assistance and participation in a Wetlands Reserve Program Conservation Project sponsored by the U.S.D.A-N.R.C.S. This program is a federally funded volunteer program for landowners to voluntarily protect, restore and enhance wetlands on their property. The Wetlands Reserve Program would work in conjunction with (N.R.C.S.) other partners to improve or expand easement acquisition and activities associated with wetland restoration, creation, or enhancement. This program provided technical and financial assistance to help landowners with their

restoration efforts. To be eligible for this project, the land must be restorable; suitable for wildlife benefits and have had an agricultural history.

Mr. Angell moved for the Land Trust to send a letter of intent with no obligation to endorse participation in this project, seconded by Ms. Strach. Recommended assistance from the Land Trust and Conservation Commission would include:

1. Endorsing participation in the U.S.D.A. N.R.C.S. W.R.P. project.
2. Authorizing the Conservation Commission and Land Trust to serve as the agencies on behalf of the Town.
3. Serve as a liaison between N.R.C.S., the Town, residents within the project area, and other potential partners.
4. Assist with the coordination of meetings, gathering of pertinent data, maps, etc. that may be required with the project.

There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Lawton Farm Bird Vegetation Monitor Study has been completed. There are forty different species of birds on the property. It was recommended in the study that all invasive species be removed and the encroaching areas cleaned up.

VI: ADJOURNMENT:

**Mr. Angell moved to adjourn at 7:35 p.m., seconded by Ms. Strach.
There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

WITNESS:

**Patricia M. Russo
Secretary**